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SERVICE DATE - LATE RELEASE AUGUST 15, 2003

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Docket No. AB-490X

GREENVILLE COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION-DISCONTINUANCE
OF SERVICE EXEMPTION-
IN GREENVILLE COUNTY, SC

Decided: August 15, 2003

In a verified notice filed on June 30, 2003, and served and published in the Federal Register on July 18, 2003, at 68 FR 42801-02, Greenville County Economic Development Corporation (GCEDC) seeks to invoke the class exemption at 49 CFR 1152 Subpart F-Exempt Abandonments and Discontinuances of Service to discontinue service over 11.8 miles of railroad, known as the Greenville and Northern Railroad Line, extending from milepost 0.0, in Greenville, to milepost 11.8, at the northern limits of Traveler's Rest, in Greenville County, SC. The exemption is scheduled to become effective on August 17, 2003.

On August 14, 2003, Lee Groome and Groome & Associates, Inc. (collectively, Groome), filed a letter challenging GCEDC's verified notice of exemption. Groome claims that GCEDC submitted false and misleading information and requests that the exemption be declared void ab initio or, in the alternative, that the effective date of the exemption be stayed pending consideration of the issues raised in Groome's letter.

Until the Board has had an opportunity to address the challenges to GCEDC's notice of exemption, a postponement of the effective date of the exemption is appropriate. This postponement is issued for "housekeeping" purposes only, to permit the orderly consideration of the arguments raised.

This action will not significantly affect either the quality of the human environment or the conservation of energy resources.

It is ordered:

1. The effective date of the exemption in this proceeding is stayed pending further action of the Board.
2. This decision is effective on its service date.

By the Board, Roger Nober, Chairman.

Vernon A. Williams
Secretary